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WFA FOOD SALES NET
\$1,706,924 IN MONTH

SAN FRANCISCO, NOV. 1 -- The regional Office of Distribution of the War Food Administration today announced that returns from WFA sales of government-owned food back into civilian channels during September totaled \$1,706,924.

According to Charles W. Smith, western WFA director of food distribution, these sales included farm products which were purchased to support farm prices, commodities released from government reserves, and foods no longer needed to meet immediate requirements of war agencies.

Of the total, 27 percent were fruits and vegetables, both canned and dried. Meats and grain products each accounted for 26 percent of the September sales. The bulk of the meat sold was beef, which totaled \$437,655. Grain products sold included dry peas and beans, rice, pea flour, rye flour and forage.

Poultry products made up 10 percent and these were mainly frozen and fresh eggs purchased under the support price program.

Dairy products accounted for an additional 9 percent, and cheese offered for sale to all cheese manufacturers and assemblers made up the greater part of the dairy products sales.

Special commodities consisting of chewing gum, citric acid, sugar and salmon made up 2 percent, and fats and oils made up the remainder.

Whenever practicable, Smith said, the WFA has offered foods for sale first to original processors. Remaining quantities have then been offered to all processors of the commodity. Where these quantities have not been sold to processors, offers have been made to wholesale distributors.

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CANNED TOMATOES BEING RELEASED---The WFA is offering approximately 35,700 cases of 1942 pack canned tomatoes for sale to original processors and will receive

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offers until November 4. The stocks are warehoused in midwestern and eastern states, and represent part of lots which are being replaced with food from the current year's pack.

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FARM PRICES GAIN -- Local market prices received by farmers rose 2 points during the month which ended October 15, but parities again held steady, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported today.

The general level of farm product prices was the same as in October 1943. Higher mid-October prices for livestock and livestock products were more than sufficient to offset the decline in crop prices during the past month. The parity index has remained at 170 for the past five months. However, wheat, oats, barley, rye, grain sorghums, hay, peanuts, and eggs are still below parity.

Lower prices received for fruits, vegetables, tobacco and corn more than offset the strength shown by the prices received for food grains, cotton and oil-bearing crops.

The total available supply of livestock and livestock products showed some further improvement during the past month as meat animal slaughter stepped-up appreciably to more than offset seasonal declines in milk and egg production.

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SPINACH REQUIREMENTS DOWN -- The WFA announced today that tentative spinach requirements in 1945 for United States civilian and military services will total only about 80 percent of the quantity packed in 1944, and canners and growers are cautioned against producing more than the market can absorb. This commodity is unlikely to be supported in 1945.

The 1944 pack was about 9 million cases. The estimated requirements for 1945 are only 7.5 million cases. In some sections of the country canners and growers already are making plans for 1945 spinach operations.

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FLORIDA CROP DAMAGE TOLD -- The tropical storm which swept Florida in mid-October was said today by WFA to have caused heavy loss of mature crops and plantings of many fruits and vegetables in that state, with damage to bean crops also reported from South Carolina. The WFA survey indicates detailed damage as follows:

Grapefruit -- Total production for 1944-45 season now indicated at 20,500,000 boxes, or 15,500,000 less than October 1 estimate. No more than 600,000 boxes can be salvaged from windfall fruit.

Oranges -- Total indicated production 42 million boxes, or ten million less than October 1 estimate. Very little salvage of windfall oranges foreseen.

Tangerines -- Indicated production 4,400,000 boxes, or 6 percent less than previous estimates.

Snap beans -- Losses in acreage and yield total 71 percent of expected fall tonnage.

Celery -- Losses vary from light damage to 25 percent of acreage, with heavy damage to seed beds.

Cucumbers -- Loss of 850 acres out of 1,450 planted before the storm, with yields reduced from 105 bushels to 50 bushels an acre.

Egg plant -- Prospective fall supplies reduced 70 percent.

Green peppers -- Prospective fall supplies reduced 85 percent.

Irish potatoes -- Early winter production cut 10 to 15 percent in Everglades, with several hundred acres elsewhere lost from seed rot and other acreage flooded with salt water.

Tomatoes -- Prospective fall harvest reduced 75 percent.

Cabbage -- No reliable estimates of ultimate loss, but considerable damage noted to seed beds and young transplantings.

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